

## REPORT

### 9th Meeting of the German Nagoya Protocol HuB Network (9. GNP HuB Stammtisch)

#### COP15 Debrief: CBD updates on ABS fresh from Montreal

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. 2:00-3:00 pm (online meeting)

The COP15 Debrief event took place online on February 7th, 2023. This meeting was a recap of the HuB participation in COP15, the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) focusing on ABS goals and targets and Digital Sequence Information (DSI). In addition, an interactive activity was done to have input from the HuB network on ideas for new topics and activities to be performed during 2023. The event was open to the public, with more than 69 registrations (61 attendees).

#### Welcome

The welcome was given by Melania Muñoz, followed by an update of the last Nagoya Protocol informational sessions performed by the GNP HuB during the last months. Then, she presented a short introduction about the biggest achievement during COP15: the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), the global strategic plan to tackle the causes of biodiversity loss and guide the international and national efforts on conservation and restoration of at least 30% of land and water ecosystems, better known as the “30x30”.

The GBF was adopted under a "take-it-or-leave-it" package, which also included: the GBF monitoring framework (indicators), a capacity building plan, a decision on resources mobilization (financial resources and a global fund) and the agreement on the next steps for benefit sharing from DSI.

#### Presentations

*Participation of the HuB project at COP15: CEPA Fair and ABS-CH workshop by Melania Muñoz, Leibniz Institute DSMZ*

The HuB team and BfN organized a session in the CEPA Fair where they presented the project’s efforts on raising awareness about access and benefit-sharing amongst academic users of genetic resources. The team showed the project’s communication materials and performed an interactive quiz with prizes, which the audience enjoyed and had fun while learning about ABS.

Moreover, the HuB helped with the organization of the ABS Clearing House workshop, where they chaired a group activity on how to improve the ABS-CH in order to facilitate access to genetic resources. The team had the opportunity to bring the major challenges from the point of view of researchers dealing with ABS permits and ideas on how to improve the way the ABS-CH shows the information.

Besides the two events, the participation of the HuB team at COP15 was a great opportunity to exchange ideas and bring the user’s perspective to ABS discussions with different stakeholders like policy makers, national authorities, researchers from other regions, private sector, representatives of provider countries, IPLCs and CBD staff.

*Global Biodiversity Framework: ABS Goal and Target by Konstantin Wußmann from German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation*

As one of the CBD objectives, ABS was part of the Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at COP15. Konstantin Wußmann explained the final version of the GBF's goal C and target 13 related to ABS. He pointed out the positive aspects, but also compromises in the formulations. During the next two years, the convention will work on the challenge of defining the indicators for ABS.

*COP15 decision on benefit sharing from Digital Sequence Information (DSI) by Amber Scholz from Leibniz Institute DSMZ*

Amber Scholz gave the next presentation on DSI at COP15. She highlighted the two events organized by the DSI Scientific Network: a side event titled "A comparative analysis of policy options for DSI under the CBD: how do they measure up?" where the members present the user's perspective about the options for benefit sharing from DSI under discussion; and, a session on DSI in the Science Policy Forum: *What capacity building for Digital Sequence Information can offer?* including ideas from the academic sector.

After that, Amber's presentation was focused on the DSI decision, which was part of the GBF package. Four introductory points were highlighted: the COP,

- Encourages the depositing of more digital sequence information in public databases
- Recognizes that tracking and tracing of all DSI is not practical
- Agrees to develop a solution for sharing the benefits of using DSI
- and this solution must meet the 9 listed criteria, which include open access and do not hinder research and innovation.

About how to distribute the benefits from the use of DSI, the COP decided to establish a multilateral mechanism for benefit-sharing including a global fund and to establish a participatory process to further develop and operationalize the mechanism, to be finalized at the next COP. Lots of work ahead until 2024!

After the talk was some time for a short Q&A session.

### **Interactive Activity**

Finally, there was an interactive activity where participants could give feedback to the HuB team via the Mentimeter online tool and provide ideas on new topics and activities of interest to be performed by the project this year. In general, the audience is interested to explore deeper about framework agreements (e.g. MoU, MTAs), country-specific ABS procedures (e.g. Brazil, China, Tanzania), DSI, among others. Specifically, compliance officers would like to have more and clearer information about ABS rules and procedures in provider countries.

Webinars and online events with researchers (presentations + Q&A) are the most helpful activities to increase knowledge about ABS. In the same way, checklists, fact sheets, flowcharts and infographics are the clearer ways to communicate ABS information.

